

Yam production in Ghana: To stake or not to stake - A plant breeding perspective

Otoo E.¹, Ennin S.A.² and Ekpe E.O.³

¹Crops Research Institute, P.O. Box 3785, Kumasi, Ghana

²Crops Research Institute, P.O. Box 3785, Kumasi, Ghana

³Department of Crop Science, University of Uyo, Uyo, Nigeria

Abstract. Staking is the yam planter's main concern especially in the yam growing areas of Forest-Guinea Savannah Transition and Coastal Savannah of Ghana. Staking is not only laborious, but also very costly. The environmental degradation due to deforestation is also enormous. Various agronomic approaches such as the use of plastic mulch, varying length of stakes among others, have been recommended in the past to solve this problem. This paper presents a breeding perspective for solving the yam staking problem by assessing white yam (*D. rotundata*) and water yam (*D. alata*) genotypes under staking and non-staking conditions and discussing the environmental impact of staking.